AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising [[a]] the nucleotide sequence encoding [[an]] *S. epidermidis* polypeptide [[of]] SEQ ID NO: 6352.

2. (Currently Amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An isolated cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 2.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing [[a]] the isolated cell of claim 3 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.

5. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding [[an]] the *S. epidermidis* polypeptide ~~or a fragment thereof, wherein said nucleotide fragment comprises at least 12 contiguous nucleotides;~~ wherein said ~~nucleic acid~~ nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO: 2580.

6. (Currently Amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An isolated cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 6.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing [[an]] the *S. epidermidis*

polypeptide comprising culturing [[a]] the isolated cell of claim 7 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An isolated nucleic acid molecule [[probe]] comprising ~~a nucleotide sequence consisting of~~ at least ~~ten~~ twenty contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 2580.

Claims 10-32. Cancelled.

33. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2580.

34. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6352.